

**U.S. Department of Justice**  
*United States Attorney*  
*Western District of New York*

*Further inquiries: (716)843-5814*

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*138 Delaware Avenue*  
*Buffalo, New York 14202*

# **PRESS RELEASE**

January 25, 2006

## **SENIOR ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY ACCEPTS NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD FOR SERVICE IN IRAQ**

Robert C. Moscati, an Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of New York since 1990, received the New York State Bar Association's Award for Excellence in Public Service on behalf of the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate (OSJA), 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division (Mechanized), Tuesday evening, January 24th, during the State Bar's 129th Annual Meeting in Manhattan.

Mr. Moscati is a Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) and 20 year veteran of the New York Army National Guard and served as the Staff Judge Advocate (SJA), the principal legal advisor to the Commanding General, for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division (Mechanized) during its deployment to Iraq from December, 2004 until November, 2005. The 42<sup>nd</sup> was mobilized to active duty in May, 2004 and was the first Army National Guard Division to deploy to a combat zone since the Korean Conflict.

LTC Moscati supervised an office of 34 attorneys and paralegals and was directly responsible for over 75 legal personnel serving in four Iraqi Provinces, including parts of

the deadly “Sunni Triangle.” The OSJA was located at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Danger, in Tikrit, Iraq, the hometown of Saddam Hussein. Officers of the Judge Advocate General’s Corps, or “JAGs,” from the 42<sup>nd</sup> OSJA advised Commanders in such varied areas as the Law of Armed Conflict, Fiscal and Contract Law, Courts-Martial, Rules of Engagement/Use of Force and treatment of detainees. In addition, 42nd JAGs trained Iraqi Army, Police and Judges in International and Human Rights Law and Criminal Law and Procedure.

The State Bar Association’s Award for Excellence in Public Service recognizes excellence by a member or members of the legal profession in the commitment to, and performance of, public service. Past recipients include: State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer; New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau; Joseph W. Bellacosa, former Associate Judge of the state Court of Appeals and dean of St. John’s University School of Law; the late Archibald Murray, former State Bar president; Albany Law School Professor Patricia E. Salkin; Robert J. Freeman, Executive Director of the New York State Committee on Open Government; and Walter E. Mugdan, Regional Counsel of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The 72,000-member New York State Bar Association is the official statewide organization of lawyers in New York and the largest voluntary state bar association in the nation. Founded in 1876, its programs and activities have continuously served the public and improved the justice system for more than 125 years.

Rob Moscati returned to the U.S. Attorney’s Office this month, where he is a long-time prosecutor in the Office’s Organized Crime Division. He was the Lead Prosecutor in the case of United States v. Darnyl Parker, et al., which resulted in the conviction of 3

Buffalo Police Narcotics Detectives in March, 2002, following a 10 week jury trial. Mr. Moscati received the Erie County Bar Association's Liberty Bell Award in April, 2005.

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